

Henry P. Roybal
Commissioner, District 1

Anna Hansen
Commissioner, District 2

Rudy N. Garcia
Commissioner, District 3



Anna T. Hamilton
Commissioner, District 4

Ed Moreno
Commissioner, District 5

Katherine Miller
County Manager

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 26, 2019

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: *Anna T. Hamilton, Santa Fe County Commissioner, District 4*
Anna Hansen, Santa Fe County Commissioner, District 2

VIA: Katherine Miller, County Manager

RE: A Resolution Urging the Forest Service to Conduct a Comprehensive NEPA Analysis Process for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project. (Commissioner Hamilton and Commissioner Hansen)

SUMMARY

This resolution expresses Santa Fe County's support for having a comprehensive analysis of environmental impacts conducted for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project through the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process, prior to project implementation.

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Forest Service is in the early stages of planning a 50,000-acre forest fuel treatment project within the Santa Fe Fireshed called the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project. The designated project areas are northeast and southeast of Santa Fe (Figure 1). As a major action with federal involvement, this project is subject to the NEPA process, intended to provide an assessment of environmental impacts, as well as plans for any needed impact mitigations, prior to project implementation. This resolution encourages the U.S. Forest Service to recognize the magnitude of this action and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project, which will allow for a comprehensive assessment of cumulative impacts, mitigation of any adverse impacts, and strong public involvement.

ACTION REQUESTED

Commissioner Hamilton and Commissioner Hansen respectfully requests the Board of County Commissioners support and approve this item.

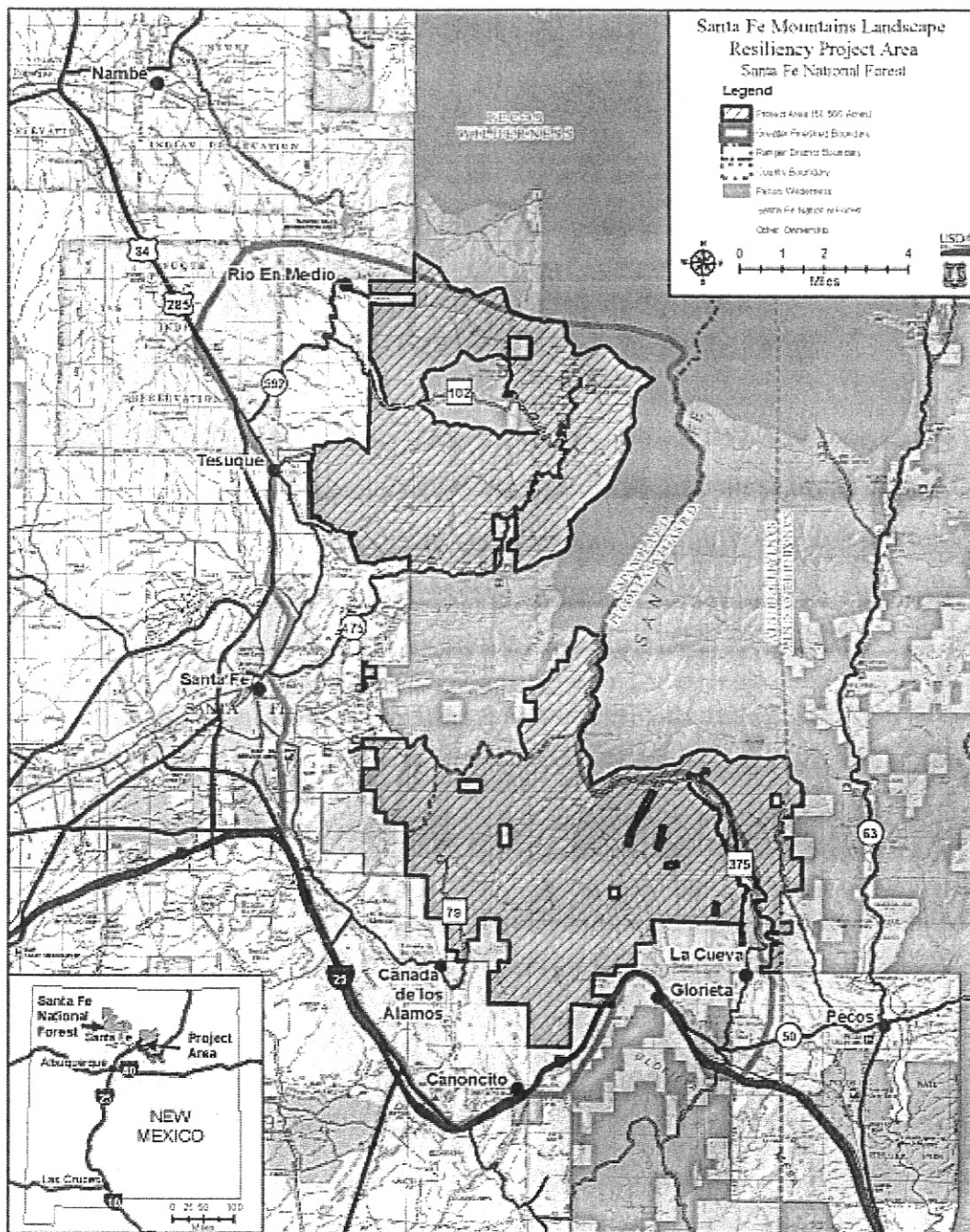


Figure 1. Map showing the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed and the location of the proposed U.S. Forest Service Santa Fe Mountains Resiliency Project.

SANTA FE COUNTY RESOLUTION
NO. 2019 – _____

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE FOREST SERVICE TO CONDUCT A
COMPREHENSIVE NEPA ANALYSIS PROCESS FOR THE SANTA FE MOUNTAINS
LANDSCAPE RESILIENCY PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (Forest Service), along with the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition, has designated 168 square miles (107,520 acres) of National Forest and private lands in northeastern Santa Fe County and surrounding areas as the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed (Fireshed) and as a focus for mechanical thinning of trees and other vegetation and prescribed burning in order to reduce fuels and protect resources including critical water sources; and

WHEREAS, the Fireshed provides recreation and outdoor enjoyment to more than 100,000 Santa Fe County residents and thousands of visitors each year and is home to the Santa Fe Ski Basin, Hyde Memorial State Park, Santa Fe Municipal Watershed, portions of the Pecos Wilderness and Tesuque and Nambe Pueblos, extensive inventoried roadless areas and high value habitat for breeding birds and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service is in the early stages of planning a 50,000-acre forest fuel treatment project within the Fireshed called the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project, during which the likelihood of substantial impacts will be determined; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners (Board) passed a resolution in 2010, Resolution 2010-110, in support of Wilderness designation for Inventoried Roadless Areas which are adjacent to the Pecos Wilderness that will be impacted by the Santa Fe Mountain Landscape Resiliency Project; and

WHEREAS, National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) is our national charter for the environment, intended to help public officials make decisions based on comprehensively

understanding environmental consequences before actions are taken and mandating, to the fullest extent possible, citizen involvement in such decisions; and,

WHEREAS, NEPA requires that environmental impacts be analyzed as a whole through the NEPA analysis process, which for a project of this size is expected to require an environmental impact statement (EIS), to include analysis of the impacts on air quality and public health from prescribed burning, water quality, soils, vegetation and wildlife from mechanical treatments including stream sedimentation, soil compaction and erosion, damage to wildlife habitat, wildlife displacement, insect and disease outbreaks affecting remaining trees, loss of old growth habitat and the spread of invasive weeds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County, hereby supports the ongoing NEPA analysis process for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project with full public involvement to comprehensively and objectively assess environmental impacts incorporating a broad range of forest and fire ecology research, and to evaluate all reasonable alternatives before further actions are taken in the Fireshed.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 26th DAY OF MARCH, 2019


THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY

Anna Hamilton, Chair

ATTESTATION:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk


R. Bruce Fredrick, County Attorney

